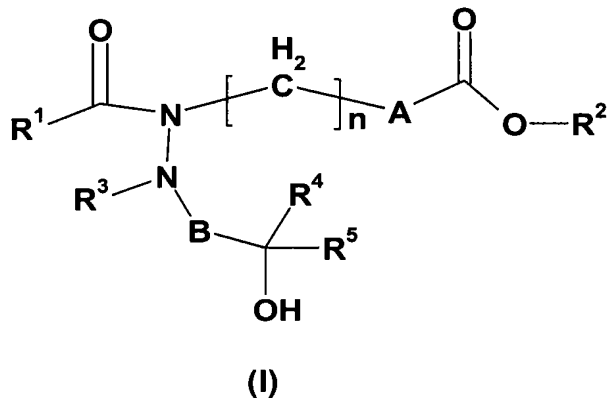


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A hydrazide derivative of Formula (I):



as well as its geometrical isomers, its optically active forms as enantiomers, diastereomers and mixtures of these, as well as salts thereof, wherein:

A is selected from the group consisting of C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl and heteroaryl;

B is selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₆ alkylene, C₂-C₆ alkenylene, and C₂-C₆ alkynylene;

R¹ is selected from the group consisting of H, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₂-C₆ alkenyl, C₂-C₆ alkynyl, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl C₁-C₆ alkyl, heteroaryl C₁-C₆ alkyl, aryl and heteroaryl;

R² and R³ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₂-C₆ alkenyl and C₂-C₆ alkynyl;

R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C₁-C₆ alkyl;

R⁵ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₂-C₆ alkenyl, C₂-C₆ alkynyl, C₁-C₆ heteroalkyl, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl C₁-C₆ alkyl, aryl C₁-C₆ alkyl, heteroaryl C₁-C₆ alkyl, aryl and heteroaryl; and

n is an integer selected from the group consisting of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide derivative of according to claim 1, wherein A is selected from the group consisting of aryl and heteroaryl.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, wherein A is phenyl.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, wherein B is ethylene.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, wherein R¹ is C₁-C₆ alkyl.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, wherein R² is H.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, wherein R³ is selected from the group consisting of H and methyl.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, wherein R³ is H.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, wherein R⁴ is H.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide according to claim 1, wherein n is 2.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, wherein A is phenyl; B is ethylenyl; R¹ is C₁-C₆ alkyl; R² and R⁴ are H; R³ is selected from the group consisting of H and methyl; and n is 2.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, wherein R⁵ is selected from the group consisting of H, C₁-C₆ alkyl and C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, wherein R⁵ is aryl C₁-C₆ alkyl.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, wherein R⁵ is heteroaryl C₁-C₆ alkyl.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, wherein R⁵ is C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

4-(2-{1-acetyl-2-[4-(3-chlorophenyl)-3-hydroxybutyl]hydrazino}ethyl)benzoic acid;
4-(2-{1-acetyl-2-[3-hydroxy-4-(3-iodophenyl)butyl] hydrazino}ethyl)benzoic acid;
4-(2-{1-acetyl-2-[4-(3-bromophenyl)-3-hydroxybutyl]hydrazino}ethyl)benzoic acid;
4-(2-{1-acetyl-2-[4-(1,1'-biphenyl-3-yl)-3-hydroxybutyl]hydrazino}ethyl)benzoic acid;

4-[2-(1-acetyl-2-{3-hydroxy-4-[3-(phenylethynyl)phenyl]butyl}hydrazino)ethyl]
benzoic acid;

4-{2-[1-acetyl-2-(3-hydroxy-4-phenylbutyl)hydrazino]ethyl}benzoic acid;

4-(2-{1-acetyl-2-[4-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-hydroxybutyl]hydrazino}ethyl)benzoic acid;

4-(2-{1-acetyl-2-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-hydroxybutyl]hydrazino}ethyl)benzoic acid;

4-(2-{1-acetyl-2-[4-(3-ethynylphenyl)-3-hydroxybutyl]hydrazino}ethyl)benzoic acid;

4-(2-{1-acetyl-2-[4-(3-fluorophenyl)-3-hydroxybutyl]hydrazino}ethyl)benzoic acid;

4-[2-(1-acetyl-2-{3-hydroxy-4-[4-(phenylethynyl)phenyl]butyl}hydrazino)ethyl]
benzoic acid;

4-{2-[1-acetyl-2-(3-hydroxy-4-thien-2-ylbutyl)hydrazino]ethyl}benzoic acid;

4-[2-(1-acetyl-2-{4-[3-(cyclopropylethynyl)phenyl]-3-hydroxybutyl}hydrazino)ethyl]
benzoic acid;

4-[2-(2-{3-hydroxy-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]butyl}-1-isobutyrylhydrazino)ethyl]
benzoic acid;

4-[2-(2-{3-hydroxy-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]butyl}-1-propionylhydrazino)ethyl]
benzoic acid;

4-[2-(1-acetyl-2-{3-hydroxy-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]butyl}hydrazino)ethyl]
benzoic acid;

4-{2-[1-acetyl-2-(3-cyclohexyl-3-hydroxypropyl)hydrazino]ethyl}benzoic acid; ~~or~~
and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of said compounds.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A hydrazide derivative selected from the group
consisting of:

4-{2-[1-acetyl-2-(3-hydroxyoctyl)hydrazino]ethyl}benzoic acid;

4-{2-[1-acetyl-2-(3-hydroxyoctyl)-2-methylhydrazino]ethyl}benzoic acid;

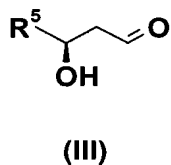
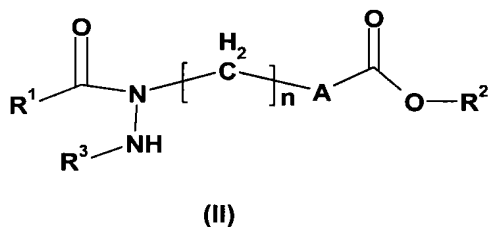
4-{2-[1-acetyl-2-(3-hydroxybutyl)hydrazino]ethyl}benzoic acid; and
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of said compounds.

Claims 18-29 (Cancelled).

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a
pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and one or more compounds according to claim 1.

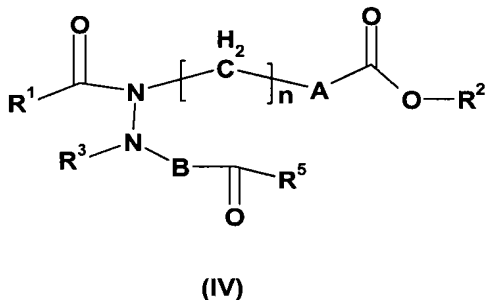
Claim 31 (Cancelled).

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): A process for the preparation of a hydrazide
derivative according to claim 1, comprising the step of a reductive amination of a hydrazide
of Formula II with a compound of Formula III in presence of a reducing agent:



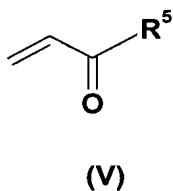
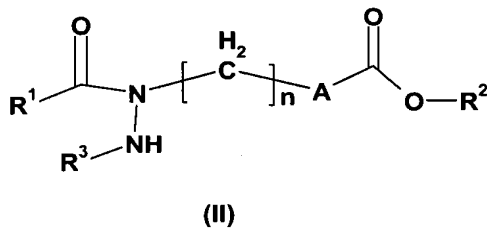
wherein A, R¹, R², R³ and n are as defined above; R⁵ is -CH₂-R⁶ wherein R⁶ is
selected from C₁-C₅ alkyl, C₂-C₅ alkenyl, C₂-C₅ alkynyl, C₁-C₅ heteroalkyl, C₁-C₅ alkyl C₁-C₅
alkyl, aryl C₁-C₅ alkyl and heteroaryl C₁-C₅ alkyl.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): A process for the preparation of a hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, comprising the step of a reduction of a compound of Formula IV:



wherein A, B, R¹, R², R³, R⁵ and n are as defined above.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 33, further comprising the step of an addition of compound of Formula V to a compound of Formula II through a Michael addition [to obtain a compound of formula IV:]

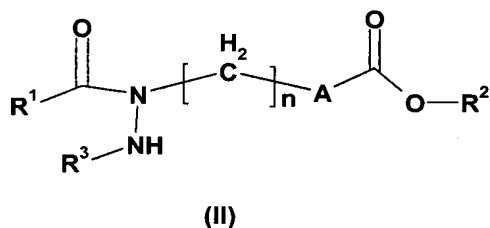


wherein A, B, R¹, R², R³ and R⁵ are as defined above; R⁴ is H.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 32, further comprising the step of saponification of the resulting compound of Formula I, wherein R¹ is not H into a compound of Formula I, and wherein R² is H.

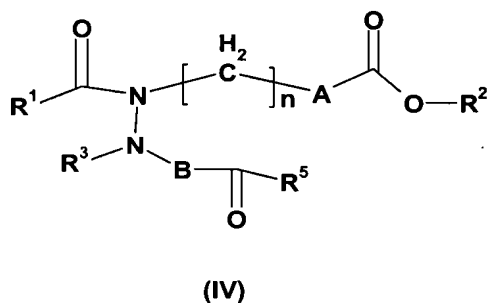
Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 32, wherein A is phenyl.

Claim 37 (Original): A compound of Formula II:



as well as its geometrical isomers, its optically active forms as enantiomers, diastereomers and mixtures of these, as well as salts thereof, wherein A, R¹, R², R³ and n are as defined above.

Claim 38 (Original): A compound of Formula IV:



as well as its geometrical isomers, its optically active forms as enantiomers, diastereomers and mixtures of these, as well as salts thereof, wherein A, R¹, R², R³, R⁵ and n are as defined above.

Claim 39 (Cancelled)